

Elizabeth Court
Oak Park
June 12th

My precious Child.

By mailing this
early tomorrow morning
I trust it will reach you
in time to express my con-
gratulations on your at-
taining your laudable
ambition; the threshold
of womanhood. I think
if you were as attentive
to your Mother's voice, as
good little girls ought
to be, the first sound
that greeted your mortal
ears, was a prayer of praise
& thanksgiving to the
giver of all good for the
great blessing he had
vouchsafed me, in giving
me a sweet wee girl;
and the music of your
voice as you endeavored
to harmonize your first-
tests with my rejoicings,

must have made may
did make a never to be
forgotten (Dwett).
Now if the dear Heavenly
Father will speak to you
through my pen, upon
this introduction to your
second life, I trust that
the new venture may
be all that you desire.
You are wrong my love,
in your misgiving that the
eighteen years have been
wasted, you have been
learning how to live, storing
away sunshine, and sweet
memories as the bees do
honey, to feast on in later
years. You have been
bringing brightness and
blessing to your ancestral
home, and giving high
promise of good things
to come, when the discipline
of life shall have ripened
your happy heart into
the full fruitage of unself-
ish love.

Womanhood knows
holier & higher joys than
the evanescent ones of
childhood. The appreciation
faculties of a ripened mind
bring alike a greater capacity
to enjoy, and ability to endure.
But you have been as one
who stumbles on eminence,
the future just beyond
your vision which is filled
by the fascinations of the
near beauty of the present.
But now upon the lovely
summit when this
meets your eye, you stand
upon the summit & look
forward into the clear
sunlight of midday &
with your dear innocent
heart full of pure hope
stand bravely or press
forward to meet the
great possibilities before
you. Adieu, my bonnie
woman, my eighteen year

old bundle of dignity!
When she gets home I know
she will seize the first
opportunity to crawl into
~~that is of~~ my lap, that
is as much of her as can
get in, & say, "I am your
own dear little girl
just the same" "dear
Mamma". A number of
friends desire to be remem-
bered to you, among others
Bertha Lee, Grace Sturgis,
Annie Sinden, Mrs
Leabury & many others.
The bicycle fond of which
I am the Barker, is grow-
ing in consequence of
the 15th June 1890.

May you have very many
happy 15^{ths} of June my dar-
ling child, and may the
congratulations and hugs
which I now have to enclose
in a letter, be given in future
years by the mouth & arms of
your now absent Mother.

glorious doings at the
closing exercises of school.
I enjoyed them greatly.
Less in his new suit
& Parisian necktie
was dazzling. He was
appointed to carry up the
bouquets to the speaker
& he acquitted himself
with great grace & presence
of mind, I assure you.
He was decorated with
a rosette of his class colors
& not a single hair out of
place. Miss Zimmerman
sang charmingly & went
up & congratulated the
class for you, & had a nice
chat with Miss G. She was
delighted to meet your
Mother & spoke of you
with praise & affection.

I called on Mrs. Bray on my
way up & she gave me
a ~~gorgeous~~ bouquet of
syringas roses & jonquils
which I decorated myself
with quite gaily. I am
looking anxiously for
a letter from dear Papa
How is his cold? Dont let
him be rash about bathing.
My throat is decidedly
better this week for the
first time. Does Grandma
find the days long or is
she getting stronger and
able to walk more.
Yes & I have been up to
Castell de Galopitioso *
this evening. It really does
look lovely. You well all be
pleased I know. Mary



Miss Grace Hall.
Springfield House.
Nantucket Island
Mass.



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